

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15 over Kasiviswanathan

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,215,857 to Kasiviswanathan ("Kasiviswanathan"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15 are amended herein to recite a system and method relying on an analog non-ring signal initiated by a caller and bypassing an outgoing greeting message associated with a called party.

Support for the newly amended claimed features can be found within Applicants' specification at, e.g., page 9, line 29 through page 10, line 7.

Kasiviswanathan appears to disclose a telecommunications system and method for enabling a calling subscriber to invoke forwarding of a call to a voice mail system on a call-by-call basis without ringing the called party (Abstract). The caller first dials a service code, e.g., *xx, followed by a telephone number (See Kasiviswanathan, col. 4, lines 34-60). The call will be forwarded to the called party's voice mail box within a voice mail system without disturbing the called party (except for a ping ring, e.g., one-fourth of a ring) and the voice mail system can be directly accessed by the subscriber (See Kasiviswanathan, col. 5, lines 1-7).

Thus, Kasiviswanathan discloses a system and method to bypass a ring signal and direct a caller to a voice mail system. However, Kasiviswanathan fails to disclose any deviation from conventional issuing of an outgoing greeting message once a caller is directed to a voice mail system. Thus, Kasiviswanathan fails to disclose bypass an outgoing greeting message associated with a called party, as recited by claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15.

A benefit of a bypassing an outgoing greeting message associated with a called party is, e.g., allowing a calling party to more quickly leave a message. Kasiviswanathan allows a caller to bypass ringing and directly access a voice mail system without ringing a caller. However, conventionally a caller

must still listen to an outgoing greeting message before being allowed to leave a message, wasting valuable time. The Applicants claimed features go beyond Kasiviswanathan's streamlining and further allows to bypass an outgoing greeting message saving a greater amount of time. The cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed features having such benefits.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 2 over Kasiviswanathan in view of Koyama

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Kasiviswanathan in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,894,505 to Koyama ("Koyama"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1, and is patentable for all the reasons that claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 2 recites a system relying on an analog non-ring signal initiated by a caller and bypassing an outgoing greeting message associated with a called party.

As discussed above, Kasiviswanathan fails to disclose or suggest a an analog non-ring signal initiated by a caller and bypassing an outgoing greeting message associated with a called party, as recited by claim 2.

Koyama is relied on to disclose an analog telephone line that is adapted to detect a line reversal at col. 10, lines 16-20 (see Office Action, page 5). However, Koyama relies on a line reversal to indicate that a transmission of calling party information has been started (see col. 10, lines 6-8). Koyama fails to disclose or suggest a line reversal to bypass an outgoing greeting message associated with a called party, as recited by claim 2.

Thus, Kasiviswanathan theoretically modified by Koyama would STILL fail to disclose or suggest a system relying on an analog non-ring signal initiated by a caller and bypassing an outgoing greeting message associated with a called party, as recited by claim 2.

For at least all the above reasons, claim 2 is patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



William H. Bollman
Reg. No. 36,457

MANELLI DENISON & SELTER PLLC

2000 M Street, NW 7TH Floor
Washington, DC 20036-3307
TEL. (202) 261-1020
FAX. (202) 887-0336
WHB/df